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Reply to Office Action

Application No. 10/808,812

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor comprising a support having a hydrophilic surface and a coating provided on the hydrophilic surface, said coating comprising:

- (a) an infrared light absorbing agent,
- (b) an oleophilic resin soluble in an aqueous alkaline developer,
- (c) a developer resistance means; and
- (d) spacer particles,

wherein said spacer particles comprise aluminum hydroxide or aluminum oxide and have an average particle size larger than $0.4\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, wherein the coating has a surface and the average particle size is selected so that a portion of a plurality of the spacer particles extend beyond the surface of the coating, and wherein the amount of said particles in the coating is between 5 and 200 mg/m^2 .

2. (Original) A positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein said particle size is between $0.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and $20\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

3. (Original) A positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein said particle size is between $1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and $7\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

4. (Original) A positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein said coating has a layer thickness comprised between 0.6 g/m^2 and 2.8 g/m^2 .

5. (Original) A positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein said coating comprises at least two layers and wherein said spacer particles are present in at least one of the layers of the coating.

6. (Canceled).

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7. (Original) A positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein said developer resistance means is a polymer comprising siloxane or perfluoroalkyl units.

8. (Original) A stack comprising a plurality of positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursors, according to claim 1, wherein adjacent plate precursors are separated by an interleave.

9. (Original) A package comprising a stack according to claim 8.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A process for improving the scuff-mark resistance of a positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor comprising providing a support having a hydrophilic surface and applying onto the hydrophilic surface of the support a coating comprising:

(a) an infrared light absorbing agent,

(b) an oleophilic resin soluble in an aqueous alkaline developer,

(c) a developer resistance means; and

(d) spacer particles,

wherein said spacer particles comprise aluminum hydroxide or aluminum oxide and have an average particle size larger than $0.4\ \mu\text{m}$, wherein the coating has a surface and the average particle size is selected so that a portion of a plurality of the spacer particles extend beyond the surface of the coating, and wherein the amount of said particles in the coating is between 5 and $200\ \text{mg/m}^2$.

12. (Previously Presented) A positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein said coating has a layer thickness comprised between $0.6\ \text{g/m}^2$ and $2.8\ \text{g/m}^2$.

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13. (Previously Presented) A positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein said coating comprises at least two layers and wherein said spacer particles are present in at least one of the layers of the coating.
14. (Canceled).
15. (Currently Amended) A positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim [[14]] 13, wherein said developer resistance means is a polymer comprising siloxane or perfluoroalkyl units.
16. (Previously Presented) A positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 3, wherein said coating has a layer thickness comprised between 0.6 g/m^2 and 2.8 g/m^2 .
17. (Canceled).
18. (Previously Presented) A positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 17, wherein the amount of said particles in the coating is between 5 and 200 mg/m^2 .
19. (Previously Presented) A positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 18, wherein said developer resistance means is a polymer comprising siloxane or perfluoroalkyl units.
20. (Canceled).
21. (Previously Presented) A positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 20, wherein said developer resistance means is a polymer comprising siloxane or perfluoroalkyl units.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.